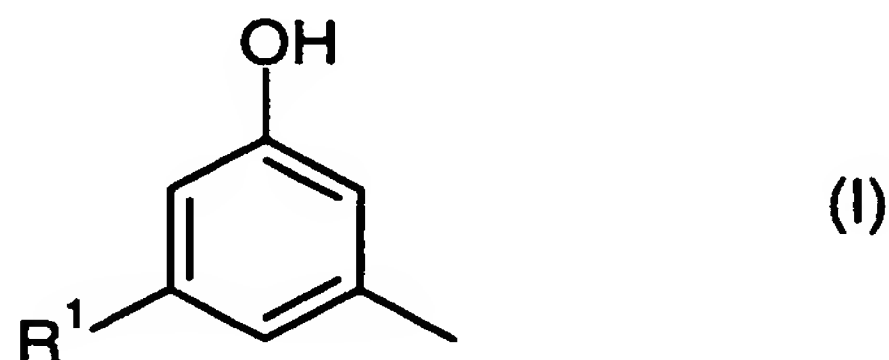


Claims

1. A Mannich base characterized in that it is prepared using at least one phenolic compound of the formula (I)



with $R^1 = \text{H or } \text{CH}_3$

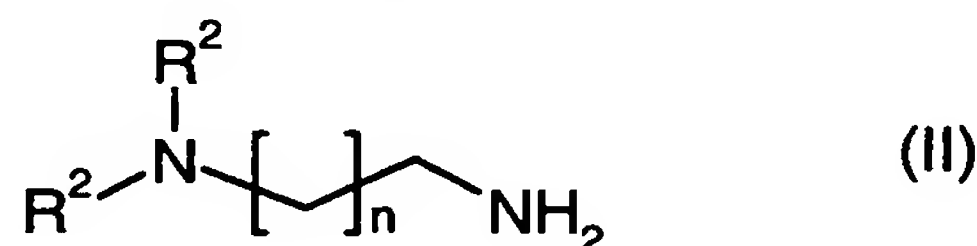
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and also formaldehyde and at least one polyamine.

2. The Mannich base as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it is prepared by reacting in a first stage at least one phenolic compound of the formula (I) with formaldehyde in the presence of a tertiary amine and in a subsequent stage carrying out reaction with at least one polyamine.

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3. The Mannich base as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the tertiary amine has the formula (II)



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with $R^2 = \text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ alkyl and $n = 1, 2, \text{ or } 3$.

4. The Mannich base as claimed in either of claims 2 and 3, characterized in that in the first stage the formaldehyde is added to a mixture of the phenolic compound of formula (I) and the tertiary amine.

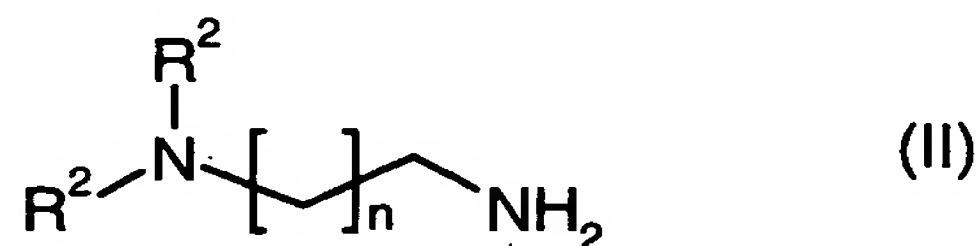
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5. The Mannich base as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that in formula (I) $R^1 = \text{H}$.

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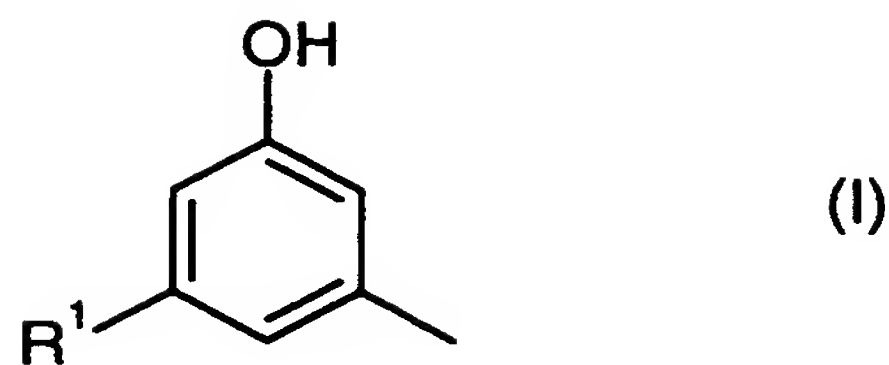
6. The Mannich base as claimed in any one of claims 3 to 5, characterized in that in formula (II) $R^2 = \text{CH}_3$.

7. The Mannich base as claimed in any one of claims 3 to 6, characterized in that in formula (II) $n = 2$.
8. The Mannich base as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the viscosity at 25°C is less than 1000 mPas, and in particular is in the range between 200 and 700 mPas.
9. A process for preparing a Mannich base, characterized in that in a first stage at least one phenolic compound is reacted with formaldehyde in the presence of a tertiary amine and in a subsequent stage reaction takes place with at least one polyamine.
10. The process for preparing a Mannich base as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that in the first stage the formaldehyde is added to a mixture of the phenolic compound and the tertiary amine.
11. A process for preparing a Mannich base as claimed in either of claims 9 and 10, characterized in that the tertiary amine has the formula (II)



with $\text{R}^2 = \text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ alkyl and $n = 1, 2, \text{ or } 3$.

12. The process for preparing a Mannich base as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that in formula (II) $\text{R}^2 = \text{CH}_3$.
13. The process for preparing a Mannich base as claimed in claim 11 or 12, characterized in that in formula (II) $n = 2$.
14. The process for preparing a Mannich base as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 13, characterized in that the phenolic compound is a phenolic compound of the formula (I)



with $R^1 = H$ or CH_3 .

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15. The process for preparing a Mannich base as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that in formula (I) $R^1 = H$.
16. A hardener component for two-component epoxy systems or polyurethane systems, characterized in that this hardener component comprises a Mannich base as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8.
- 10 17. The use of a Mannich base as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8 as a hardener for epoxy systems or polyurethane systems.
18. An epoxy system or polyurethane system comprising at least one Mannich base as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8.
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19. An epoxy system or polyurethane system comprising at least one Mannich base and obtained by a process as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 15.
- 20 20. A cured product obtained from an epoxy system or polyurethane system as claimed in claim 19 or 20.